

G¹ where said amount is less than an amount which induces a pathological response in the mammal when administered parenterally, said oromucosal administration being such that it does not involve direct action of the interferon on virally infected cells, and provided that when the condition is rhinovirus, the interferon is not administered through the mouth by multiple or continuous doses.

Please add new claim 26, as follows:

15 ~~--26.~~ In a method for stimulating systemic host defense mechanisms against a pathogenic condition in a mammal, which method comprises administering to the mammal having such a condition a therapeutically effective amount of an interferon via oromucosal contact, the improvement wherein said amount is from about 21.4 IU/kg/day to about 2.9×10^4 IU/kg/day, wherein said amount is less than an amount which induces a pathological response in a mammal when administered parenterally, provided that said oromucosal administration is such that it does not involve direct action of the interferon on virally infected cells, and provided that when the condition is rhinovirus, the interferon is not administered through the mouth by multiple or continuous doses.